

1 **MR. RICK ADAMS**

2

3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Mr. Rick Adams.

4 MR. ADAMS: I thank the Commission for letting me be

5 here. My name is Rick Adams. I recently celebrated the first

6 anniversary of my employment at the Hollywood casino in Aurora,

7 Illinois. My job is food and beverage manager and is probably

8 the best job I've ever had.

9 Before I was hired at the Hollywood casino in Aurora,

10 I spent nine months receiving unemployment benefits, after being

11 laid off by a Fortune 500 restaurant company. Being older than

12 many of the workers, it was hard to find a job. I registered

13 with a group called KDK which stands for Kane, Dekalb and Kendall

14 Counties which offers support and resources for those looking for

15 employment.

16 As it happens, Hollywood casino of Aurora is a major

17 supporter of KDK, and Shannon Pratt, Hollywood's vice president

18 of operations is the chairman. It was kind of an accident that I

19 even heard about the job at Hollywood casino, since I never

20 thought about food service jobs in the casino industry. I was

21 embarrassed and worried about being out of work. I had always

22 held responsible jobs. I worked for Jewel Food Stores for many

23 years. I worked for 7-Eleven, Southland Corporation as district

24 manager, overseeing 32 stores. I have an undergraduate degree

25 from U of I and an MBA from Loyola.

26 As it turns out, losing my former job and coming to

27 work for Hollywood casino Aurora, after meeting my wife, is

28 probably the best thing that has ever happened to me. The casino

29 has been very good to me. I now manage ten supervisors with an

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1 hourly staff of about 120 people overall. I'm well paid. I get
2 good health benefits, including medical and dental insurance and
3 work closer to my home than I ever have.

4 When I wanted to learn more about using computers,
5 Hollywood Casino Aurora paid my tuition for several classes. I
6 hope to work for Hollywood casino for a long time. I no longer
7 worry about being old when compared to other workers. In
8 Hollywood casino it doesn't matter how old you are. If you can
9 do the job, the job is yours.

10 I'm also proud to work for Hollywood casino in Aurora
11 because it has done a lot of good in the community. When you
12 walk around downtown Aurora you see new buildings, new energy,
13 new attitudes from people. The police officers stationed at the
14 casino tell me that areas that were once diseased with
15 prostitutes and drugs are now filled with new buildings and clean
16 crime free areas. The Paramount Theatre is alive again. Walter
17 Payton and Michael Jordan have both made substantial investments
18 in Aurora.

19 Hollywood casino has been responsible for change in
20 Aurora and the change has been positive. It has also changed my
21 life for the better. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you. I understand that our
23 number three speaker and our number ten speaker would like to
24 switch, and since obviously we're going to get to both of you, I
25 certainly have no problem with that.

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